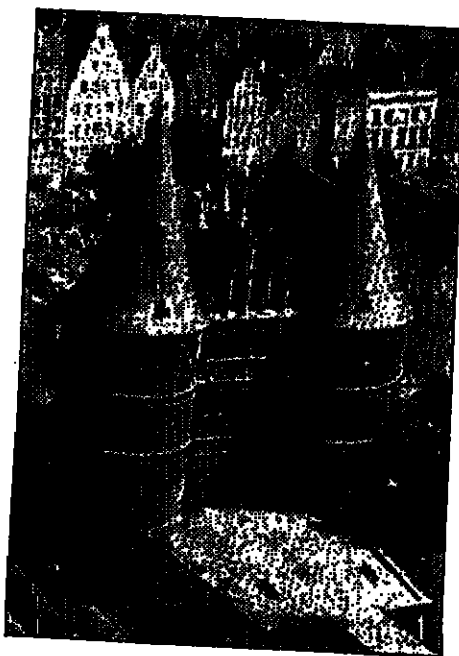


# Routes to tour in Germany The German Holiday Route — from the Alps to the Baltic

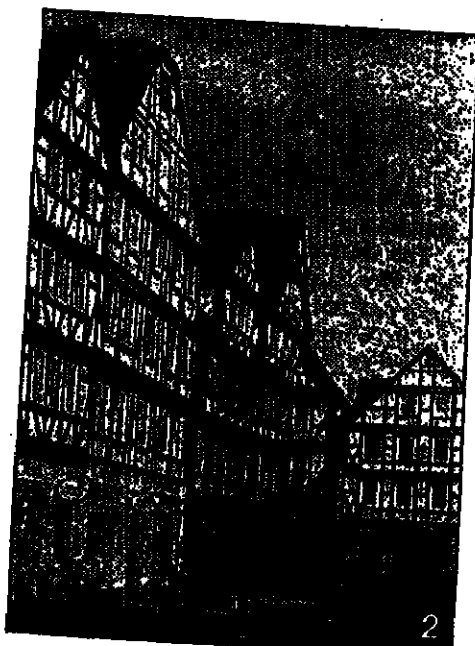


German roads will get you there, and if you plan to see as much as you can, why not travel the length of the country? From the Alpine foothills in the south via the typical Mittelgebirge range to the plains of the north, you will pass through the most varied landscapes. And so you needn't take pot luck in deciding on a route, we recommend the German Holiday Route from the Alps to the Baltic.

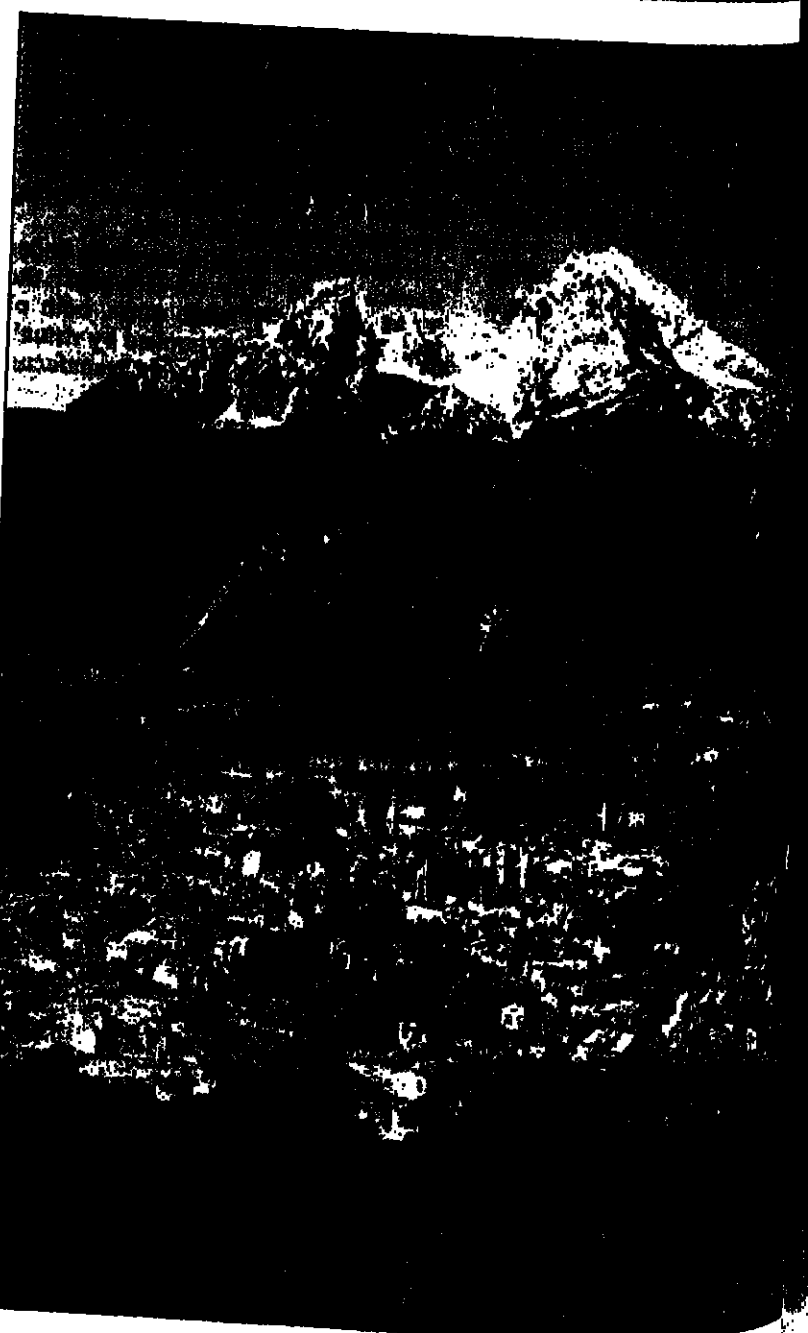
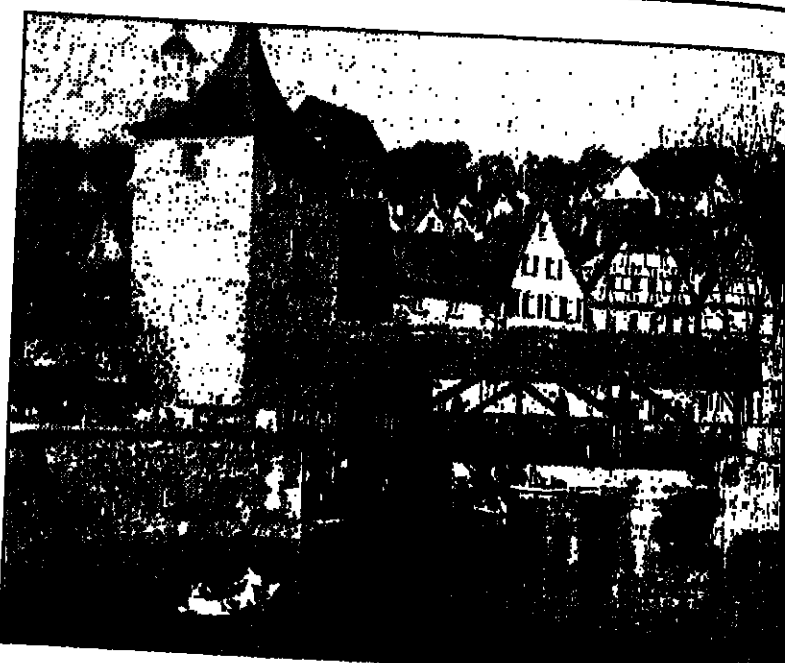
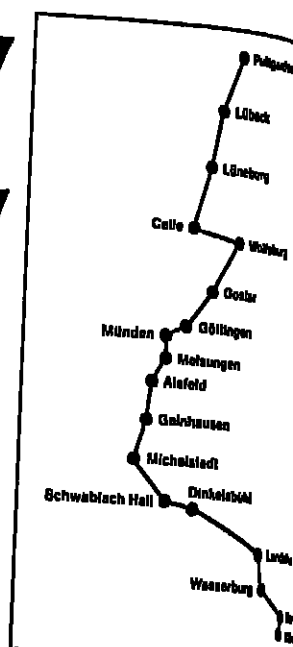
Start in the south with Berchtesgaden and its bob run. Maybe you have already heard tell of Landshut, a mediaeval Bavarian town with the world's largest brick-and-mortar tower. Or of Erbach in the Odenwald, with its castle and the Ivory Museum. Or of Aisfeld with its half-timbered houses, the Harz mountain towns or the 1,000-year-old Hanseatic port of Lübeck.

Visit Germany and let the Holiday Route be your guide — from the Alps to the Baltic.

- 1 Lübeck
- 2 Melsungen
- 3 Schwäbisch Hall
- 4 Berchtesgaden



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# The German Tribune

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## US hand may be forced by Lebanon casualties

protecting power in Lebanon (on account of its own losses), it also underlined just what a stabilising element the 30,000 Israeli soldiers south of Beirut and in the Shouf in fact were.

The fact that during the past few days over 100,000 people have fled behind the Israeli lines shows where the best chances of survival are at the moment in Lebanon: in the Israeli-occupied south.

The vacuum left behind to the north of the Awali River has become all the more dangerous. It looks as though this will turn into the scene of a Soviet-American substitute war for power and influence in Lebanon and the Arab world.

Not only are Soviet and American arms involved, the superpowers themselves are at the ready: the Americans and their navy off the Lebanese coast; the Russians in their Syrian artillery positions.

One false move, any kind of military over-reaction by one side or the other, could spark off a real war between the two superpowers.

Both Washington and Moscow are hardly likely to be interested in this. Although the Soviet Union has traditionally stirred up troubles in the Middle East and tried to benefit from the situation, the outbreak of a supranational conflict is too risky an enterprise.



Zambian President Kaunda in Bonn with President Carstens this month. (Photo: dpa)

## Namibia on the agenda for Kaunda talks

Nordwest-Zeitung

Kenneth Kaunda, President of Zambia for 20 years, has paid an official visit to Bonn. Zambia is one of Africa's front line states which condemns South Africa's policies.

President Kaunda himself is one of the few politicians in Black Africa who advocates a peaceful solution to the problems facing this part of the world.

As the Federal Republic of Germany is one of the five countries belonging to the so-called "contact group" seeking a solution to the Namibia question, this topic was prominent in discussions with German Foreign Minister Genscher.

Up to now, Kaunda has cleverly steered his country clear of the major international fronts and maintained true non-alignment.

This has not always benefited a country which as a result of this policy has missed out on capital flows from both eastern and western industrialised nations. It is one of the world's most heavily indebted nations.

The visit to the Federal Republic has not only focussed on the political dialogue on South Africa, but also on economic aid from Bonn, not just from the government but also from private sources. Germany will not be able to ignore President Kaunda's request. He himself will have realised, however, that it came at a very difficult time.

Wolfgang Fechner

(Nordwest-Zeitung, 13 September 1983)

## Korean jet: why Greece played down the condemnation

Most other member countries of the EEC expected political surprises during the six-month Greek presidency of the EEC's Council of Ministers. The Greeks have proved them right.

Greece has showed no sign of intending to refrain from its foreign-policy escapades.

The first surprise move came on the missiles question: in letters sent to his fellow foreign ministers, Greek Foreign Minister Yannis Charalambopoulos made the suggestion to postpone Nato rearmament by six months should the Geneva talks fail to reach an agreement.

This suggestion has in the meantime been rejected by all those countries in which the missiles would be deployed.

Whereas the Greek socialist government could count on the support of many of its sister parties in Western Europe on this issue, its stance on the shooting down of the South Korean airliner left it out on a limb.

The incident was condemned throughout the western world as a barbaric and brutal act. The Greek government, however, showed great restraint in its initial official statements.

On the day of the tragedy, Foreign Minister Charalambopoulos expressed his "deep sorrow at the loss of the South Korean airliner", yet there was no condemnation of the act itself.

Even after Moscow had admitted to shooting down the plane, the Greeks still kept to their restraint.

It was therefore hardly surprising that Greece was one of the countries which voted against anti-Soviet sanctions by Nato last week. Together with France, Spain, Denmark and Turkey, Greece decided against a resolution accepted by the majority to suspend flights to and from the Soviet Union for a period of two weeks.

Finally, Greece found itself at the centre of a major row during the conference of EEC foreign ministers in Athens last week.

Despite concerted efforts to change the Greek position, Charalambopoulos refused to agree on a joint EEC condemnation of the Soviet Union.

This is not the first time that Papan-dreu's government has stepped out of the Nato and EEC line. The Greeks too

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## Peace movement divided over choice of anti-deployment strategy

The peace movement is split. One camp wants action to lead to immediate results while the other wants to win over public opinion with the aim of getting even more people in human chains, strikes and blockades.

What this boils down to is the attempt to provoke the state into hasty action on the one hand and, on the other to create a credibility crisis through indirect pressure from a mass movement.

The Greens had invited a group of American pacifists to come to Mutlangen; and before long the Americans urged "stronger action."

Mandy Carter, for 16 years a committed negro member of the War Resisters' League, said tersely: "This is no blockade. It's a wake."

The former Pentagon expert Daniel Ellsberg criticised the essentially symbolic siege, saying: "This isn't the fall of 1982 but the fall of 1983."

He emphasised the pressure of time, adding moral pressure as well by pointing to the peace fasters in Bonn: "Are they suicides? Aren't we all suicides unless we do more?"

The apocalyptic words had their effect — and not only on young people. Said Andreas Buro, who has been a part of the Movement from the very beginning: "The Bonn fasters keep giving me pangs of conscience."

But what to do to cap their actions?

The American participants in the demonstration wanted to out the barbed wire fence surrounding the arms depot and demonstratively invade the installation, and there can be no doubt that they were prepared to risk more than just arrest.

One of the protestors in Mutlangen was Father Philip Berrigan, a member of the Plowshare Eight group, the eight courageous peace fighters who three years ago destroyed several nuclear warheads at the American King of Prussia Technology Centre.

The only thing that prevented Ellsberg and Father Berrigan from escalating the demonstration was TV Pastor Jörg Zink's threat that he would distance himself.

But the moderation won't be for long. If they don't climb the fence in Mutlangen, they will climb it elsewhere. Perhaps at the nearby Pershing base Waldheide near Heilbronn or in Neu-Ulm.

The impression of peacefulness at Mutlangen was deceptive. Frustration spread rapidly under the blazing sun by day and rain by night.

They didn't expect that they would literally be left sitting after four weeks of rehearsing non-violent resistance.

It was this frustration that made the participants receptive to the militants among them.

It was Herwig Jantschik, a 23-year-old conscientious objector, who put into words what many had on their minds: "For me, civil disobedience means taking even more suffering upon myself."

Even such level-headed people as the Berlin Professor Peter Grottel concluded on the second day that "blockade as a form of action is obsolete."

Many asked themselves what form the next phase of escalation should take.

Those who spent day and night in the "Peace Camp" experienced how the

pacification agreed upon between the police and the organisers turned into the opposite that called for a more effective blockade.

Let there be no mistake: nobody wanted any violence; but there were some who hoped to get arrested. It took some doing to prevent one woman from setting herself alight.

To provide a safety valve for the pent-up emotions, Klaus Vack suggested a demonstration in Schwäbisch Gmünd and the encirclement of the Bismarck Barracks where — by no coincidence — his friends Andreas Buro and the spokesman of the "Peace Manifesto Group", Professor Wolf-Dieter Narr, so ably directed the traffic that not a single car or pedestrian was inconvenienced.

But the militant Greens and the Americans, the young and impatient among the participants, wanted stronger action.

Said Ellsberg: "A longer action is a stronger action."

One of the "Alpuquerilla" group seconded him, saying: "The GIs have removed the rockets, now we must prevent them from bringing them back again."

A permanent blockade? For Erhard Eppler (SPD), such a prospect was so disquieting as to prompt the usually

conciliatory man to shout at Ellsberg angrily: "Mr Ellsberg, don't you give advice to the German Peace Movement?"

It was not only the German Christian raised in the spirit of "love thy enemy" who confronted the Vietnam veteran in the hour-long dispute. This was also a confrontation between convincing mediators and spontaneous activists.

Ellsberg saw the visible success of the Mutlangen action in jeopardy and felt that putting his own life on the line could prevent the deployment.

It is therefore not surprising that he made himself the spokesman of the Bonn fasters and wrote a letter to the Russian leader Yuri Andropov, saying that if Andropov agreed to unilaterally stop nuclear tests for two months and to scrap one SS-20 missile a month, thus starting a disarmament spiral, the Bonn fasters would break off their action.

For Eppler, on the other hand, it was the invisible success that was in jeopardy. His idea is not to put off the "three-quarters of the people who silently oppose the deployment."

Notwithstanding his great respect for the fasters, he said, "I see my function differently."

## Sit-in heralds imminent hot autumn

enough to exert sufficient pressure on those in power.

The result is no end of slogans and intricate legal points.

There is, for instance, the fact that the two-track NATO decision is rooted in clear majority votes in all established parties in this country. There is therefore no need in constitutional terms for the Bundestag to deal with this weighty decision again.

Another frequently raised question in peace movement circles is whether there can be forms of protest that are not legal but legitimate.

A case in point is the trade union appeal to all working people to down tools on 5 October in a demonstration for peace.

Only the employers and some conservative politicians have pointed out that this would be an illegal "political strike." The employers have the law on their side; but a similar five-minute demonstration was held to commemorate the assassinated industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer.

What matters is the issue of violence. The peace movement has stressed the non-violent nature of its demonstrations time and again. They stuck to this principle in Mutlangen and Bitburg despite the fact that many conservative politicians depict their blockade of the American military installation as "violence" (coercion).

Now there are some voices, especially in the Greens camp, that make it doubtful whether this peacefulness will prevail in the forthcoming "hot autumn."

Referring to the disappointing outco-

Said Eppler to Ellsberg: "different strategies."

What it all boils down to is the conflict that has existed through and that arises in every continuous or to consolidate been achieved?

Commented Klaus Vack, secretary of the Socialist Bureau, old socialist terminology: "I am actually faced with the question of the spearhead may be the grassroots."

The way out of the stalemate through coincidence. Even siding on whether to continue the blockade, there was no agreement. The sit-in there was clearly a co-alignment of the Bitburg demonstration exactly the same as the parts in Mutlangen.

Those urging stronger action, Father Berrigan, the Green MP, Montgomery, the Green MP, East German who was still a citizen (ship) rushed to the aid to assist the "nameless" in the situation.

One of the posters they carried "Two Democracies": In the discussion going on in Bremen behind the scenes and in public, the forthcoming elections in city-state have put the shipyard into the forefront of party political

ed because everybody found it can be saved or not, there will be lay-offs unless Bonn changes shipyard policy.

Michael Schleyer (D) Zink, 1983

The current prescription for a cure is a merger operation that would include the Bremen Vulkan yard (employing 2,000), the AG Weser (2,000), the Hapag Lloyd yard (2,600) and the Hapag Lloyd yard (1,300).

The idea behind this is to reduce the building capacities still further. All of these companies have already been shut down considerably and further cuts would make it impossible for them to survive individually. It is considered best for them to merge.

Due to the stagnation in world shipbuilding, the demand for new ships is low. In the past ten years there has been little demand for seagoing vessels, but demand there is has to be over 200 many shipyards.

The world's shipbuilding capacity stands at 20 million GRT while demand for only 14 million GRT is best.

Naturally, the yards are fiercely competitive for what orders there are. Most governments subsidise their shipbuilding. As a result, competitors can undercut German shipbuilding by up to 50 per cent.

Another major factor is the low wage in such shipbuilding nations as Korea. That country built up a shipyard capacity of four million GRT, which it now wants to extend to 10 million GRT, regardless.

While the Koreans keep expanding their shipbuilding capacities, they produce their capacities at 40 per cent of Europe's capacities.

Many of the workers who remain there is not enough to keep everybody busy. Many of the workers who remain there is not enough to keep everybody busy. Many of the workers who remain there is not enough to keep everybody busy.

Orders that went to German yards in past were delivered below cost in order to preserve jobs.

Standards to reason that this could not be sustained indefinitely and that it had to be the financial position of the yards at some point. Shipowners and

## INDUSTRY

## Workforce disillusioned at troubled shipyard

state governments were forced to jump into the breach time and again.

The past few years have seen a considerable improvement in the quality standards and the know-how of cheap non-European yards. This poses a threat to a field in which German yards had a virtual monopoly; the construction of sophisticated special purpose vessels.

The cries for help that now come from the medium sized yards that had been doing well in this specialised field are a warning signal that should be taken seriously.

There can be no doubt that the public sector in general and Bonn in particular must jump into the breach if Germany is to continue having a shipbuilding industry to reckon with.

What is needed is an about-turn in policies — but in exactly the opposite direction from the policy pursued by the present government.

Nobody can seriously believe that a big yard resulting from the merger will be viable without government support.

In April, the prime ministers of the coastal states drafted a list of demands that included additional assistance measures, among them subsidies for orders from abroad.

But even if these subsidies were to materialise, it would still be necessary to lay off 9,000 people. In any event, Bonn has refused to go along.

On 12 September, the workers of the Olling Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft AG (HDW) shipyard in Hamburg occupied their yard.

Following a staff meeting after a demonstration through Hamburg's city centre, the 2,000 workers who took part in the demonstration voted in favour of occupying the yard to prevent the layoff of about 2,100 out of a work force of 4,000.

The occupation (the workers stressed that it was not a strike) was intended to back up these demands:

● The stockholders (the federally-owned Salzgitter concern and the state of Schleswig-Holstein) are to meet with representatives of the Bonn government and the state governments of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein and trade union and works council representatives to discuss the future of the yard (A delegation was sent to Bonn to bring about these talks.)

● The management board is to withdraw its list of people to be laid off, involving 1,354. The list was presented to the works council despite the fact that negotiations were in progress at the time.

● One of the three container ships which HDW is to build for the People's Republic of China to be built in Hamburg rather than in Kiel.

The metalworkers union representative at the yard, Dieter Melzer, had earlier told the staff meeting that the workers had only two rights: the right to work and the right of self-defence. He said that the HDW management board had forced them to defend themselves.

Otto Kock, the workers' representative, told his fellow staff members: "We

The medium sized yards have now also demanded federal assistance, saying that they would otherwise have to lay off 6,000 people.

The situation is disastrous. State coffers are empty (Bremen alone having pumped DM200m into the bottomless pit) and the jobless rate is alarming (14 per cent in Bremen). Yet Bonn does nothing.

Bonn regards it as its foremost aim to bring about a world-wide reduction of shipbuilding subsidies. That would not cost Bonn a penny but it would also achieve nothing because the chances of success are nil.

Unless Bonn wants to permit the nation's coastal regions to run to seed it will have no choice but to join the subsidies race.

But the coalition government opposes this on grounds of principle and because it is determined to rehabilitate its financial position by reducing the deficit as much as possible.

There are plausible reasons for this, but one of the possible approaches would be to keep the yards busy with future-oriented projects unrelated to shipbuilding.

They could build heating plants, filters for power stations, sewerage purification installations or machinery for the recycling of raw materials.

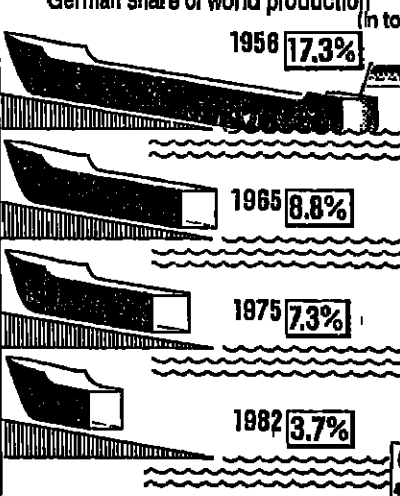
But this would require government interference with economic processes — which is unthinkable for CDU and FDP.

Whatever Bonn does, the public sector will have to foot the bill — be it for an active job-creation policy or be it to pay for additional thousands of jobless yard workers.

One could lament the death of a tradition-rich branch of industry and

## Shipbuilders' losing fight

German share of world production (in tons)



then revert to business as usual if the laid-off workers could find other jobs.

But there is little chance of this — neither in Bremen, nor in Hamburg nor in Kiel, where 4,000 yard workers are about to be laid off. And there is no end in sight.

Speculation some time ago that Daimler-Benz would employ 1,000 laid off Bremen yard workers has meanwhile been denied by the auto makers.

And as to the 440 who are supposed to find work at the Vulkan yard, at least the same number will be laid off.

Even Bonn's recently passed regional promotion programme worth DM80m cannot change anything.

The Bremen Senate will have to match this amount — something that will take a great deal of sacrifice.

Even the firmly envisaged merger of the yards — be it with or without AG Weser — would cost the state at least DM30m, and perhaps even more.

Johannes Christ  
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 September 1983)

## Shipbuilding men mount a protest

won't permit them to take the yard away from us; we won't let them throw us out; we'll only let the police carry us away."

Said a Bremen speaker, alluding to the occupation of shipyard by workers: "If you're asked to bring your beds with you, say yes."

"Give a signal and tens of thousands of metalworkers will follow you," the local head of IG Metall, Otto von Steeg, was told.

That day, some 1,500 blue and white collar workers left the staff meeting to march through the city. The demonstration was headed by women who had taken part in a hunger strike the previous week to draw attention to the mass layoffs.

At a subsequent rally, Hamburg Mayor Klaus von Dohnanyi and worker representatives accused Bonn of leaving the shipyards in the lurch.

Said IG Metall spokesman Frank Telchmüller: "The HDW affair is teaching us a lesson that applies to the entire coastal region and the nation as a whole."

According to the mayor, Bonn has not yet come up with a blueprint for the crisis. He again accused the HDW management board of having either ignored the city administration's proposals or forwarded them to Kiel.

He said the City of Hamburg was prepared to help out financially if HDW were to build one of the three ships on order from China in Hamburg.

Meanwhile, the Bonn government still refuses to subsidise Germany's shipyards. This transpired in a discussion between Bonn Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg, Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff and Lower Saxony's Economic Affairs Minister Birgit Breuel, and Lower Saxony's Economic Affairs Minister Birgit Breuel.

The reasons Bonn gave for the rejection were essentially of a financial nature. But Bonn also fears that the Brussels EC Commission would turn down an assistance programme on legal grounds.

The economic affairs ministers of the four coastal states and Berlin demanded in mid-August that Bonn subsidise export orders at the rate of five per cent or DM600m a year.

According to Hanover government circles, the Bonn ministers concerned were, however, open-minded on supporting the coastal states in the fields of research and development.

Preparations for ministerial talks in late October or early November are to begin soon.

Informed circles say that the economic affairs ministers of the coastal states intend to meet soon to discuss the shipyard problems.

Birgit Breuel urged shipowners not to delay ordering new vessels.

But it is still unknown whether the states intend to launch a rescue programme for the yards.

VWD  
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 13 September 1983)



## BUSINESS

## Chemicals industry shows sharp rise in profits

Germany's chemicals industry has gone from slump to boom almost overnight. Shareholders had no sooner received apologies for poor dividends last year than they learned that first-half results this year showed a steep rise in profits.

Hoechst's six-month profit is up 44 per cent, Bayer's up 19 per cent and BASF's 12 per cent.

Chemicals is the third most important economic indicator after construction and cars. So this might mean that the long-awaited upturn is on the way.

Curiously, there have been no cries of joy from Bonn's economic pundits. This is probably because the news arrived during the summer recess.

There is plenty of reason for rejoicing because variations in profit affect more than a single branch of industry.

Last year's profits were bad not only because of the general slump on the markets for plastics, dyes, man-made fibres, fertilisers and general chemicals but also because most of the chemical companies shut down their unprofitable production facilities and the write-offs were reflected in the balance sheets.

This phase is over now, and there is general agreement that last year was the last year of getting rid of dead wood.

Chemicals, Germany's second largest industry, dealt rather silently with a fundamental problem of highly developed industries: obsolescence of products and the emergence of new competitors on world markets.

Like the notoriously crisis-bound industry such as steel, shipbuilding, coal-mining and textiles, chemicals was plagued after the 1970s oil crisis by rising costs for labour, energy and raw materials.

Excessive production capacities and undercutting competitors depressed

both prices and the general mood in the boardrooms.

But unlike the steelmakers and shipbuilders, the chemical industry did not ask for the state's helping hand but rid itself of unprofitable products and looked for new ones.

The watchword by which the industry lived for a whole decade was: quality instead of quantity.

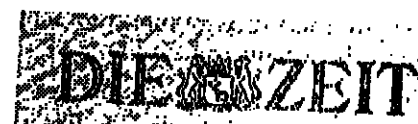
Competition, especially from cheap and simple to make run-of-the-mill products, grew. Supplied by German engineering firms, East Bloc and Far Eastern countries built one plant after another, producing fertilisers, simple man-made fibres and mass plastics in the 1970s.

Now, Opec countries like Kuwait are also crowding the market with cheap chemicals.

Bayer chief executive Herbert Grönewald two years ago said: "The chemicals industry has realised that it cannot compete with important petrochemicals from the Opec countries in the long run. This is why chemicals companies have begun to restructure the range of their products."

Much of this restructuring boiled down to tearing down. Quite a few once highly productive facilities were shut down, among them the Munich-based camera factory of the Bayer subsidiary Agfa and the Hoechst-owned fibre factory in West Berlin.

So were Hoechst's cellophane factory



Kalle in Wiesbaden, Enka's fibre factory in Kassel, Bayer's perlon manufacture in Dormagen and the plastics factories of the Olefin works in Wesseling, a BASF subsidiary.

But chemicals did not leave it at paring down. Its sights were levelled on the future.

At Bayer's annual meeting in July, Grönewald said: "We are deliberately switching to specialised fields where we hope to achieve growth. We know very well that our only security against run-of-the-mill products lies in research."

Despite meagre profits in the recession year 1982, Bayer boosted its research budget by ten per cent to DM1.5bn. Another DM200m is to be added this year.

Bayer's competitors also put added money into research.

The chemical industry was trying to come up with new and technically highly developed products.

Grönewald said about his company's withdrawal from run-of-the-mill products in favour of high-tech goods: "It works."

The move has been facilitated by the wide range of products in the chemical industry. Unlike in the steel and shipbuilding industries, which largely depend on one kind of product, the chemical industry is extremely diversified.

Even if man-made fibres, fertilisers, paints and dyes or plastics stop being profitable, the industry can switch to such money spinners as pharmaceuticals or insecticides and use the money made in those sectors to finance the re-vamping of the problem products.

Whether this new offensive is actually a way out will be shown by the products that generated nothing but losses in the past years: man-made fibres, plastics and fertilisers.

There has not been any money to be made in Europe with man-made fibres for years because new technologies have dramatically raised the output of fibre spinning plants and because Europe's textile industry — the main buyers of the spinners — has been virtually eliminated by Far Eastern competitors.

European manufacturers shut down production capacity of about 400,000 tons a year by 1982. Another 500,000 tons worth are still to be shut down.

The losses were staggering. The Wuppertal-based Enka, the leader in this line of business, closed 1975 (the worst year) with a loss of DM500m. Hoechst lost DM400m in its worst year; and Bayer also had nothing but losses with its fibre business, once one of its biggest money spinners.

The various companies cut back radically. Enka shut down 35 per cent of its production capacity at the cost of 15,000 jobs.

One-third of Hoechst's fibre workers had to look for other work.

At one time, man-made fibres accounted for 14 per cent of Hoechst's sales. Now the figure stands at nine per cent. And for Bayer, this ratio dropped from 15 to five per cent.

The shut-down plants were by no

means old and technologically advanced. Bayer, for instance, bought the Hülls fibre works that closed down in 1978 only ten years ago.

Most of the shut-down spinning plants that had been a thread for everyday textiles — typhos, shirts, carpets and so on.

The man-made fibre production shifted to making thread for use and high-class textiles.

Enka, for instance, now makes foil and dialysis membranes.

Its top product is to be the high strength aramid fibre, Aramid.

Weight for weight, this fibre has five times the tensile strength of steel and is as suitable for use as it is as an alternative for clutches.

In 1970, Enka's technical fibre counted for 30 per cent of its production. Now it is 54 per cent.

The trend is similar with other chemical companies.

Hoechst planning manager Hofmeister: "Our fibre division stands for a successful transition."

Bayer has been so encouraged by the fibre business as to have bought a fibre plant in Lingen that previously belonged to its competitor Monsanto.

"This will strengthen our position," says section head.

The fact that Bayer is expanding its fibre production makes it clear that this sector is no longer a loss-making business.

Away from everyday goods, the chemical industry is turning to custom-made stuff in the plastics sector as well.

Like in the case of fibres, cheap imports are spoiling the market for their inventors: for example the DM3bn in this sector last year.

Germany's most important manufacturers in this field, Hoechst lost DM220m and DM130m respectively.

## Scrapped

As a result, they scrapped half of their production facilities for polyethylene, the stuff plastic is made from.

About one-quarter of the production facilities for polystyrene (a plastic for packaging and insulation) have been scrapped. There were further cuts in facilities for PVC, polyurethane and ethanol.

Since there is little hope that new plants will come up with new plastics, the chemical industry hopes on increasingly sophisticated specialised blends of already existing plastics.

Ever more suitable plastic elements are now replacing metal parts in automobiles. Plastics are being used for electrical conductors, fire retardant materials and more easily dyed.

The chemicals industry of the future will produce less and sell more slowly but, its executives hope, it will improve.

The switchover from quantity to quality is unlikely to go off without a few bumps — some of which are being made themselves felt.

Hopes of profit could be dashed by the fact that the new high-tech chemical products will be very expensive.

Continued on page 7

## THE EEC

## Common agricultural sense gets bogged down



What has come of efforts to reform the EEC's common agricultural policy (CAP)?

The EEC's financial problems are primarily to CAP, which takes two-thirds of the budget.

This year, a financial crisis is expected. It makes political action now urgent than ever. But experience shows that Eurotechnocracy rules over common sense in Brussels.

The whole system is firmly in the grip of technocrats who don't want change.

Stagnating and income cases declining demand for farm products is indicative of what the future holds in store. At the same time, technological progress has not stopped short of farms and is sure to make for even more surpluses in the future.

In 1981, the Brussels Commission urged that the agricultural policy be changed, but this went unheeded.

Stagnating and income cases declining demand for farm products is indicative of what the future holds in store. At the same time, technological progress has not stopped short of farms and is sure to make for even more surpluses in the future.

Europe's farmers will have to realise that they will have to accept lower prices and subsidies if their output exceeds a certain threshold or that they will have to bear the cost of selling their produce themselves," the Commission stated a few weeks ago.

Farmers organisations and politicians who are closely linked to them were outraged.

Irish commentators even went so far as to call such a sensible demand "the worst blow since the Republic came into being."

Denmark and the Netherlands are also profiting from the perpetuation of this untenable system. And without their approval Brussels is hamstrung. This makes it obvious what the future holds in store.

Agreement can be reached on details at best, and even then only under pressure.

As a result, they scrapped half of their production facilities for polyethylene, the stuff plastic is made from.

About one-quarter of the production facilities for polystyrene (a plastic for packaging and insulation) have been scrapped. There were further cuts in facilities for PVC, polyurethane and ethanol.

Since there is little hope that new plants will come up with new plastics, the chemical industry hopes on increasingly sophisticated specialised blends of already existing plastics.

Ever more suitable plastic elements are now replacing metal parts in automobiles. Plastics are being used for electrical conductors, fire retardant materials and more easily dyed.

The chemicals industry of the future will produce less and sell more slowly but, its executives hope, it will improve.

The switchover from quantity to quality is unlikely to go off without a few bumps — some of which are being made themselves felt.

Hopes of profit could be dashed by the fact that the new high-tech chemical products will be very expensive.

Continued on page 7

sure from the Community's finance ministers.

There is, however, one bright spot now: when Agricultural Commissioner Poul Dalsager groans "milk is the bugbear," the others don't instantly contradict him.

Like last year, this year's surplus production is likely to rise by 3.5 per cent. This means that the guarantee threshold will be exceeded by at least six per cent. The mere cost of taking these milk surpluses off the market would justify a 12 per cent price hike.

And since this would be an imposition on the consumer, it is the taxpayer who will have to foot the bill. It is also he who will have to pay for 10.5 per cent higher prices paid to dairy farmers in 1982/83 along with their tax relief.

This year, more than DM10bn (about one-fifth of the overall EEC budget) will flow into the pockets of the community of "milking experts" among the farmers.

Yet only the consumption of cheese and yoghurt is rising in the Community; milk consumption has been going down for some time.

About 15 per cent of the Community's dairy products are not sold within the EEC. In fact, many farmers send produce straight to storage.

What is to be done with the 900,000 tons of butter likely to build up in cold storage by the end of this year? And what about the 1.3 million tons of surplus skimmed milk powder?

The drive to provide cheaper butter during Christmas cannot absorb any more of the surplus than it has before.

Yet farmers organisations emphasise that milk provides the main source of income for about two million European farmers. Creamery payments have become something like a monthly payroll.

Surpluses are now so big that they can't be paid for. The EEC Commission therefore advocates a quota system based on the 1981 output. The idea is to discourage creameries from going from one record output to another and the purchase guarantees for milk powder are to be suspended temporarily.

But small farmers whose few dairy cows are still taken to pasture can expect help from Brussels.

Bonn Agriculture Minister Kiechle — usually rather wary of Commission proposals — praised the latest suggestion saying that the German government

thinks along similar lines in trying to restrict the production of further surpluses.

Still, nobody is thinking of letting the milk production and prices become governed by supply and demand. This would be pointless anyway because the lobby of agriculture ministers and farmers organisations would be bound to prevent the worst from happening.

The true problems therefore went unmentioned in Brussels and at the summit conferences in Stuttgart and Athens, despite the fact that Gaston Thorn, the president of the Commission, called for a new "creative spirit."

Nothing is being done to settle the latest European North-South conflict (between the dairy and grain farmers of the north who are the main beneficiaries of CAP for these products and the olive and wine farmers in the poorer south).

The differences between the living conditions of a Danish pig farmer and a Sicilian wine grower keep growing.

Bonn Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg set something in motion when he said that he no longer excluded the possibility of boosting the EEC budget by increasing its one per cent stake in the member nations' VAT.

The agriculture ministers keep their ranks closed. And this hardly creates added scope for new initiatives, like an all-European drive to fight unemployment.

Rudolf Wagner  
(Die Zeit, 9 September 1983)

## EEC farm surpluses

How the mountains have grown

	1 July 1982	1 July 1983
Butter	218 000 t	248 000 t
Milk powder	386 000 t	422 000 t
Wheat	1,856 MIL. t	2,000 MIL. t
Barley	163 000 t	172 000 t
Beef	53 000 t	300 000 t

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Rudolf Wagner  
(Die Zeit, 9 September 1983)

## Boom in chemicals industry

Continued from page 6

— perhaps too expensive to stand a chance in the market.

For instance, the world's largest chemicals concern, the American Dupont Corporation, recently had to withdraw its silk fibre Qiana from the market because it was too expensive to sell.

The same reason prompted Bayer to discontinue the development of a boil-proof, non-wrinkling polycarbonate fibre.

There is yet another problem: markets for sophisticated chemical specialties are small and the competition is bound to be much stiffer than with mass products.

Enka, for instance, will have to fight it out with the American giant Dupont when marketing its new aramid fibre. Dupont is already a market leader with its high tensile strength Kevlar fibre.

This makes it not surprising that Dupont and Enka are already involved in a bitter super-fibre patent dispute.

Insiders even go so far as to suspect that it will not be long before there are the same surplus production facilities for the aramid fibre as there used to be for textile fibres.

The starting positions of Germany's chemicals industry, in the race into the future are not equally favourable. Bayer and Hoechst are clearly in the lead.

The multinational Bayer Corporation has traditionally been very strong in the development of technical plastics. Moreover, it can fall back on its profitable pharmaceuticals and pesticide sectors.

Hoechst, on the other hand, seems to be cornering the business promise of the future: biotechnology.

The third of the giants, BASF, is bound to have a harder time switching from mass products to specialties.

When oil prices exploded in the 1970s, the company decided to swim against the stream and concentrate on the raw material petroleum.

Last year, when oil prices started de-

clining, BASF lost DM300m in its refinery business.

There were also losses in the fertiliser business, the third problem area after fibres and plastics.

BASF now seeks its salvation in the profitable business with information systems, especially audio and video tapes.

It is obvious that the changes in the chemicals industry cost jobs. The industry's payroll dwindled from 602,000 in 1974 to 560,000 last year.

But this does not fully reflect the employment changes. People are constantly losing their jobs in the chemical factories and finding new ones in other plants.

Hoechst alone achieved a turnover of 3,500 people in this way.

All in all, the revamped chemical industry with its specialised products will not create more jobs.

Hoechst personnel manager Richard Gehringer: "We have learned to engage in a cautious personnel policy. Things won't be as they used to be."

Wolfgang Gehrman  
(Die Zeit, 9 September 1983)

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## Redoubled efforts to control arms build up the only path open

There is no reason to gloat over the fact that Johanna Jordan has decided to end her fast for peace in Bonn after 40 days.

The reaction should be one of relief and respect. She realised that peace cannot be forced into existence. It needs living and not dead martyrs if it is to be preserved and shaped.

Many people were moved by the action taken by the Bonn fasters.

Yet the underlying courage of despair feeds on the thoughtlessness of many politicians and media in the Federal Republic of Germany when they refer to the arms race. To hear them speak you would think that a holocaust is just round the corner.

It is therefore hardly surprising that individual people decide to do something to avoid disaster and doom. Suicide in this atmosphere seems like an anticipation of an inevitable Armageddon.

As one of the fasters Andrea Eulokovich put it: "We've only got one or two years left to live anyway."

This is not correct. We are not standing on the edge of a precipice. To believe that means a rejection of politics.

For politics is all about giving answers which are practicable.

Politicians are not prophets from the Old Testament. Their worst mistake would be to conjure up disaster and then fail to provide realistic solutions to the problems facing mankind.

It seems to be common practice in Germany at the moment to talk only of the disaster to come and pass this off as politics.

The end of the world is not just around the corner.

Admittedly, it is depressing how we have had to make do with the kind of peace — or to be more accurate substitute for peace — based on the threat of mutual and unlimited destruction.

Yet such a threat is by no means its implementation. The substitute peace in this atomic age has stood the test of time. One reason is the sheer inconceivability of a nuclear war.

How else could we explain the fact that despite the fundamental differences between the political system and moral concepts of East and West, despite wars and crises in Lebanon, Chad, Afghanistan and Nicaragua, the arrows of atomic war have up to now remained in their quiver?

The prophets of doom must be puzzled at the fact that the shooting down of the South Korean airliner with 61 Americans among the dead has only led to verbal skirmishes.

Before the bomb came along wars broke out for much less serious reasons. Now, however, Washington and Moscow are unanimous: dialogue must go on.

During a recent press conference the Soviet chief of staff Orgakov reacted most indignantly to the question whether the conflict between the major powers could be decided upon by a local commander, as in the case of the shooting down of the Jumbo over Sakhalin:

"It would be completely uncalled-for to draw analogous conclusions".

And President Reagan, whom no-one can accuse of exercising rhetorical restraint, admits in the latest edition of

Time magazine: "Of course, to begin with you think of retaliation, but that's just impossible."

In fact, he still supports a summit meeting with the leaders of a country which still refers to the killing of 269 people as a justified defence in reaction to a violation of Soviet air space.

Reagan: "If a summit helps our security, it ought to take place."

So alongside all the short-sightedness of armament and counter-armament, alongside all the mistrust and sabre-rattling, the language of reason can still be heard. The atom itself makes it necessary.

This does not mean that the substitute peace of deterrence should remain a long-term basis for security. It cannot.

People realised this long before the peace movement came along, although the demonstrators on the streets of Western Europe and the United States underline the point with greater thrust.

The bomb must be kept under control at all times to make sure that mutual deterrence does not suddenly trigger the actual use of nuclear potential.

However, this is no place for panic-mongering.

Anyone who claims that nuclear war is inevitable — as did Oskar Lafontaine in his book *Angst vor den Freunden* (Fear of our Friends), stating that computers make the decisions and not human beings, just doesn't know what he is talking about.

Marshal Orgakov's outrage is justified. Any decision on nuclear war, whether in America or Russia, is not taken by subordinate military commanders or by computers. The final button will be pressed by the political leaders.

These leaders have learnt from earlier mistakes. Both sides have built-in safeguards to make sure that in case of an

emergency only those in political power can decide, not any electronic brains.

The fact that of the 150 computer errors by American anti-aircraft defence listed by Oskar Lafontaine not one has left the President faced by a "nuclear decision" supports the reliability of deterrence rather than its susceptibility.

A group of experts from Harvard University, whose judgement is based on expertise and not on emotionalism, came to the conclusion:

"It would be mistaken to believe that a simple computer error or a nervous commander could bring about a nuclear war. Fortunately such scenarios are extremely improbable, not to say impossible."

However, nobody can rule out technical or human errors. The atomic age is not fool-proof.

For this reason East and West should never sit back and relax and leave everything up to deterrents.

The airliner incident over Sakhalin has underlined what is needed.

One is permanent contact between the leaders of the major powers. A crisis centre could be set up as suggested by the recently deceased Senator Henry Jackson, in which American and Soviet officers are involved. Such a centre may well have prevented the loss of 269 lives.

This close contact should not only be of a technical nature but also political. George Kennan wrote in 1960:

"Total antagonism can only result from the complete lack of effective communication. I therefore question whether the enemy we are always referring to can in fact only be regarded as an enemy." To keep on talking with one another is a strategic requirement.

Fervent efforts aimed at arms control are needed. The world has no option

## Missiles deployment: Moscow still hoping West will be hamstrung

The Soviets are finding it easy to take a tough line towards the Americans in the talks of medium-range missiles which have resumed in Geneva.

Backed by propaganda, they are rigidly sticking to their position and waiting for the Americans to make the next move.

Only the SPD has clearly taken a step towards a definite no to Nato rearmament. It looks as if the party's grass roots has more influence on the issue than the party leadership.

Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is beginning to sound like a voice in the wilderness.

Because of the SPD attitude and the activities by the peace movement, Moscow must be hoping for a situation in which it becomes impossible politically to implement the Nato double-decision.

If the Soviets are in fact holding such hopes, they have obviously not recognised the signs of the times: the firm determination of the West to abide by the decision.

The incomprehensible and rash renunciation of any kind of rearmament by parts of the SPD before the negotiations in Geneva have come to an end supports any illusions the Soviets may

have. It does not, however, weaken the West's negotiating position.

During his press conference the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Koryenko had nothing new to offer.

He spoke of "wishful thinking" by the West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

The tug-of-war will continue about whether to include the French and British systems in negotiations.

Initially, the Soviets made no mention of these missiles. The suggestion came later.

This Soviet swiveling makes things more difficult and still remains a major stumbling-block in Geneva.

There was some new information on the level of Soviet armament from western sources.

More SS20 bases are to be set up and SS21s positioned. This doesn't help matters in Geneva.

Europe will have to wait to see who has the longest staying power. The remarks made by Koryenko at least indicate that there is no reason to hope that negotiations will come to a result in the near future.

Wolf Ullmann

(Kleiner Nachrichten, 15 September 1983)

but to try and regulate arms build-up.

This means hard work. BMW's sales manager Hans-Erd Schönbeck, "are asking for more performance than in any period since the second world war."

Only that, the new demand for horsepower is particularly strong in countries which have strict speed limits in the mid-sixties.

The strange thing is that performance-mindedness — the trend towards a sporty car — was thought to have died in the mid-sixties.

Buyers seemed more interested in aspects. The car had to pull through a roll-over crash, a side-on head-on and rear-end collisions without passenger injury if it was to have a chance on the market.

Designers had only just catered to the demand without turning the car into a tank when along came the environmental protectionists.

They demanded an engine which did not pollute, which did not emit poisonous gases. The result: the motors were cleaner but had less power and soaked up more petrol.

The oil crisis changed things again: designers tried to improve fuel economy. They constructed cars with high-compression gears and throttled engines.

The arms manufacturers already see the counter-reaction: power is back in fashion.

Engine motor sales have boomed during the last three quarters of the year, whereas sports versions have very few.

Technicians have reacted fast. Not only politicians but also car manufacturers are expecting a hot autumn.

The sports models will be the unconquered stars of the 50th International Motor Show in Frankfurt this month.

Where politics fails, fear succeeds. The other hand, if there is a disaster politics often finds a way.

Those who prophesy a hot autumn must provide answers to the questions. Seeing as the back of that we cannot undo what we have done, how can we come to terms with the bomb? A denuclearised world?

The bomb has no borders and is unlimited wars. Should we break up our world? Security cannot be guaranteed without the backing of friends.

Should we develop just a national defence strategy? Nuclear war will still exist.

Should we renounce rearmament? The threat to Western Europe will still be there.

All these answers are not good enough. Yet anyone who hesitates to be taken seriously in must provide answers, regardless of stance on rearmament.

Resolutions such as the one from Baden-Württemberg SPD during a cent party conference are not enough.

They may create a good atmosphere within the Opposition or make their conscience clean, but mean more than this.

If the security debate is just a titillation to see who can point the picture of impending disaster, it will not only find it difficult to but lose its credibility.

This was one warning by the SPD in Bonn. The apocalypse is not for peace policies. Politics still has a chance.

The governments have a duty to all they can to use this opportunity. This is no time for empty rhetoric.

Christoph Bode

(Die Zeit, 16 September 1983)

## THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

### A year for sprinters, show reveals

Bodywork is partly made of carbon-fibre reinforced synthetic material to save weight. The standard model has leather recaro seats, a central locking system and stereo radio.

An anti-blocking system is available at an additional price — and this despite the fact that the Quattro Sport already costs DM 195,000.

The small car is yet another part of the clever marketing plan developed by the head of Audi, Wolfgang Habel, hoping to take Audi into the luxurious class.

Ingolstadt are at least guaranteed one superlative: the Quattro Sport is Germany's most expensive car.

After presenting the diesel, Munich-based BMW is going for sportiness. It has got the M 635 CSI ready for the Frankfurt Show. It is claimed to be the "world's fastest four-seater series coupé".

The transmission system of an earlier BMW sportscar M-1 has been transplanted into the older (eight years) coupé shape.

The 3.5 litre engine with four valves per cylinder has 286 hp performance and the super BMW is said to top 255 kmph.

However, during trial runs the pre-series model did not match expectations.

The exterior differs from its lower-priced brother coupé as follows: the front skirting is larger and there is a more conspicuous rear spoiler. The interior is also more luxurious. The price for this newcomer: DM89,500.

Sportiness is the name of the game for Daimler-Benz, too. The motor show will show a sports version of the 190 model running under the name 190 E 2.3-16.

The sports saloon has broad tyres, fat front and rear spoilers and slides which move further down towards floor level.

It has a 2.3 litre engine with 16 valves (no turbocharger), has 185 hp and can do 240 kmph.

Just in time for the show, Daimler-Benz set up a new world record at the Italian racing circuit in Nardò: 50,000 kilometres at full throttle averaging 247 kmph.

At a price of DM45,000 the small sports Mercedes is an attractive offer.

The new 190D is better-priced yet slower. Thanks to engine capping this will be the quietest diesel car in the world.

The two-litre engine only requires seven litres for 100 kilometres, thus moving into the group of the most economical cars. Fiat has not yet opted for sportiness.

During the show, the head of Fiat, Vittorio Ghidella, will be presenting the Regata, a notchback version of the Ritmo which is to replace the programme's current 131.

The engine range is between 68 and 100 hp. With 513 litre boot space volume the Regata can show its face alongside the VW Jetta and the Ford Orion.

The ES version of the Regata has a City-Matic: if the car has to stop at a red traffic light the engine switches off automatically and on again automatically as soon as the foot is put back on the accelerator pedal.

Ford has still not gone for sporty models, although the preparations are under way.

The most important current Ford car is the Orion, a notchback version of the Escort.

The small Ford Fiesta, unchanged since 1976, gets a new more streamlined front and a more pulled-down bonnet — as competition Fiesta customers who are considering the Opel Corsa.

In addition, the Escort-convertible will have its premiere in Frankfurt.

Opel: Corsa-Sprint is the name of the new version of the mini Opel.

With wing extension and a 1.3 litre engine, the car has 126 hp. The small white car is still in the development stage.

Nissan, better known as Datsun are offering an elegant, harmoniously designed sports coupé, the Silvia.

The customer can choose between a two-litre 16-valve engine with 145 hp or a 1.8-litre turbo engine with 137 hp. The four-seater can then reach a speed of 205 kmph.

The Silvia will start selling in April 1984, and will definitely be tough competition for the Toyota Celica.

Sportscar specialists Porsche are the most affected by the new sporty trend. Porsche boss Peter Schutz is well equipped for the new challenge.

In Frankfurt he will be showing a



The Opel Junior, still only a prototype.

completely renovated 911: as "Carrera". In the rear section there is a new 3.2-litre engine, which has a performance of 231 hp and can hit 245 kmph.

The letters "SC" at the back are replaced by "Carrera".

The new car has a six per cent improvement in fuel economy (compared to the previous model) and is equipped with an indicator for brake wear.

The rear wing from the turbo is to be recommended by the Porsche salesman to its Carrera customers.

Porsche also have the — slightly revised — 928 S in Frankfurt. Due to the new Bosch motronic ignition, the 928 S does 310 hp, enabling a top speed of 260 kmph.

For the first time Porsche will also be providing an anti-blocking system — as an extra.

Volkswagen has also recognised the sign of the times. Its Scirocco will be getting a lavish 1.8-litre 136 hp engine for the Motor Show, allowing speeds of up to 210 kmph for the small coupé.

More important for the VW manufacturers is the fate of the new Golf II.

Although at first glance it looks exactly the same as its predecessor, it is in fact a completely new car.

The new Golf has more room inside and better motoring qualities. An interesting aspect is that the new Golf looks like the "Lancia Delta" — particularly in the rear-light section.

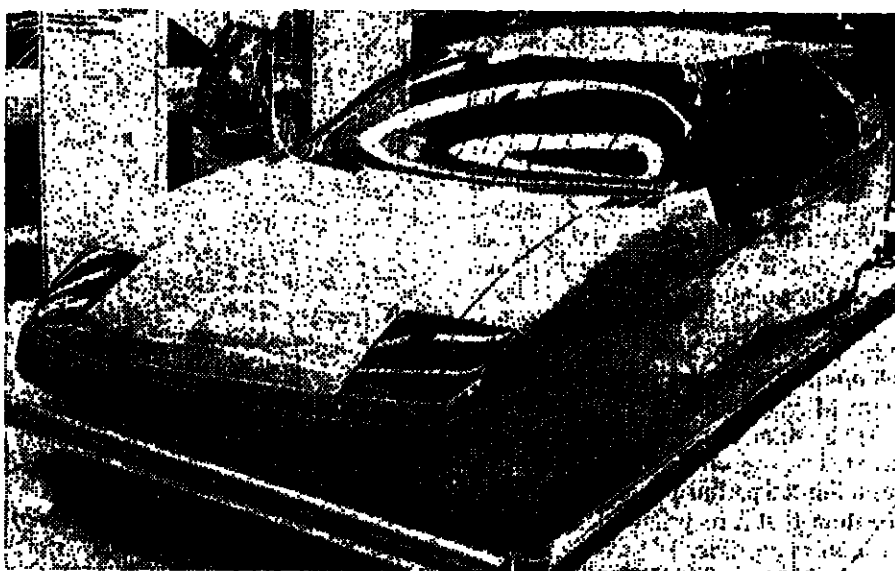
This is no coincidence. Well over a decade ago, the original design for the Golf was provided by the Italian star designer Giorgetto Giugiaro.

German VW re-modelled his design Giugiaro, angry at this move, then sold his — slightly improved — design to Lancia.

Hanns-Peter Rosellen  
(Rheinische Merkur/Christ und Welt,  
9 September 1983)



Mercedes-Benz 190 E 2.3-16



Ford's experimental car

(Photos: Sven Simon opa)

Many parts of the Baltic Sea will be still romantic and picturesque: the Swedish skerries, the steep coasts of Rügen or the chalk cliffs of the Danish island of Møn, not to mention the many beautiful sandy beaches.

However, there are other parts where living organisms find it difficult to survive: the oil-polluted bays and the concrete jungle along much of the coast.

If the seven countries bordering the North Sea do not act fast the days of the Baltic Sea will be numbered.

## Fish diseases caused by dumped filth

The Federal Republic of Germany says it plays a leading role in environmental protection.

The great number of laws and decrees issued in this field would appear to confirm this.

However, the dying German forests tell a different tale. They suggest that there is still a long way to go before there can be talk of success in environmental protection.

The sick trees are just one area which underlines failings.

Another is the alarming example of the North Sea. It has been misused for years by its bordering countries, first and foremost by the Federal Republic of Germany, as a huge rubbish dump.

Of course, the water provides a convenient carpet which covers up the filth which has been dumped.

However, German fishermen in the North Sea must foot the bill for the waste which pours out of the sewage pipes from coastal towns and is dumped by so-called *Giltschiffe* (ships of poison).

Up until a few years ago there were only four known fish diseases in the German Bight. Today there are nine.

Twenty two of all the fish species living in the German Bight are regularly affected by illness caused by environmental pollution and 3.7 per cent of the herring larvae from the southern North Sea show skeletal changes.

"Although everyone is aware of this, everything goes on as if nothing has happened."

Permission will probably be granted to the titanium dioxide producers Kronos-Titan and Pigment-Chemie to continue dumping over a million tons of *Dünnschlur* in the North Sea until 1992. This toxic substance is 18 per cent sulphuric acid.

The Federal Ministry of Transport responsible for such an approval refers for its justification to the Oslo Convention in which this type of waste disposal is permitted under two conditions: if it is thought necessary by public interest and if on-shore disposal is impossible.

Both exceptions are no longer valid. The public interest argument, which according to the two chemicals companies is the threat to jobs if approval is not given, does not hold. The fishermen who fish in the North Sea will also lose their jobs if their fishing grounds are gradually poisoned.

And an on-shore recycling procedure had long since been developed for *Dünnschlur* with the support of Transport Ministry money.

If a new dumping permission is granted, it can only be hoped that it is for a limited period and is tied to the ultimatum that a recycling plant be built as soon as possible.

Christian Schneider  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 August 1983)

## THE ENVIRONMENT

### Baltic Sea threatened by early biological death

The reduction in the once flourishing plant and animal world may mean an alarmingly early biological death.

The sea eagles, at one time at home here, have disappeared altogether it is claimed that there are only about 200 seals left. About a quarter of 422,000 square kilometres of Baltic Sea is already regarded as biologically dead or at great risk.

The Baltic has been having hard times for about 15,000 years because it is an inland sea.

It was created following the retreat of the glaciers during the last Ice Age and the subsequent ground elevations virtually cut it off from other seas. As a result there are no tides and no regular exchange of water.

The only link to the North Sea is via the Kattegatt between Denmark and Norway. A complete replacement of water by new seawater takes 25 years. The salt content varies in different parts of the Baltic.

The sea has been moving towards a gradual biological death for many years. The countries bordering it (Norway, Sweden, Finland, the USSR, Poland, and both parts of Germany) have been speeding things up during the last few decades. The 125 million people living in the coastal regions use the sea for sailing, military training, transporting tankers, fishing and dumping toxic waste.

Toxic wastes pose a great threat. A Stockholm University authority has pointed out that the balance between the plankton and the benthos, that is between the micro-organisms on the water's surface and those at the bottom

of the sea, is in great danger of being upset. An imbalance is to be expected in many parts soon.

But this isn't all. Another great danger is a vast increase in algae, which rob the sea of oxygen, thus gradually killing the fish.

The toxic waste dumped in the sea, such as DDT, mercury and lead, also finds its way into the human body via the fish we eat.

The refuse deposited in the sea by human beings is not the only threat to the future of the sea and its fish.

Industrial fishing methods, which are only interested in quantity, are a danger.

As a member of the Swedish Fishing Authority's research laboratory explained, although the Baltic only covers 0.2 per cent of the world's total sea area it accounts for 1.2 per cent of total fishing.

The fishing rate has increased nine times within only 80 years, currently 900,000 tons are caught each year.

Following an extremely dry summer it is hoped that the first storms expected at the end of September will improve the dramatic situation at least a little.

In the long run, however, the oxygen-rich seawater squeezed into the Baltic from the North Sea by the autumn storms will not provide noticeable relief or improve the quality of the water.

The seven coastal states have only been working together on rescue measures since 1974. An environmental protection convention was drawn up in Helsinki that year.

This convention, which was ratified by the Federal Republic of Germany in

Earth's history is punctuated with cases of animals and plants becoming extinct.

The disappearance of such species — once a part of a biological process — has been caused more and more often in Earth's recent history by man himself.

Is humanity itself now facing its own limits, is it bringing about its own extinction?

This is a question of growing concern to scientists and far-sighted politicians.

It is also the central topic of an international congress entitled "Higher Education by the Year 2000" at the University of Frankfurt. Three hundred delegates from 40 countries attended.

University lecturers, politicians and government officials are seeking answers to the question of how higher education can contribute towards solving social problems.

The congress is organised by the European Society for Higher Educational Research. The head of the organisation is a Frankfurt university professor, Ulrich Peter Ritter.

The congress is supported by the universities of Frankfurt and Tokyo, the OECD, Unesco, the German Research Association and the city of Frankfurt.

The aim of the congress is to make higher education institutions more aware of their social commitments.

The major global ecological problems

### Has man begun to engineer his own doom?

should play a greater part in university research and teaching, says Professor Ritter, otherwise the universities will degenerate into politically and socially second-rate institutions.

"I believe that this congress is a most unusual event, with university lecturers, politicians, administrative personnel and practical experts exchanging ideas on the future."

At the moment we are so taken up with everyday problems and crisis management that we often fail to ask ourselves where the journey will lead."

As part of this congress, a Unesco exhibition entitled *Der Mensch und die Biosphäre* (Man and his Biosphere) was opened in Frankfurt's Senckenberg Natural History Museum: 80 countries and over 1,000 scientists took part in Unesco's action programme.

Attention focused among other things on technological problems, problems of fertilisation and of environmental pollution.

German experts concentrated on the influence of man on tropical and sub-tropical forests, the spreading of the desert and the problems facing the Alps.

Another research topic was the envi-

ronmental strain on the Lower Rhine. Air pollution was measured on organisms such as lichens, mosses and tree-bark.

Professor Will Ziegler, director of the Senckenberg museum, pointed out that at present the extinction of animals is four times greater than that of the past.

By the year 2000, he claimed, the extinction rate caused by human action will probably be 40 to 60 per cent greater than today.

Professor Ziegler said: "There have always been cases of mass extinctions, the dinosaur for example. But all this is nothing compared to what is happening today."

The exhibition in the Senckenberg museum is open until the end of September.

A large number of ecological and cultural factors will be presented referring to examples and problems during the past ten years.

Thirty six posters illustrate the important problems facing environmental planning, the supply of materials and the relationship between man and his environment.

There are five central topics: the approach to environmental planning, rain forest, fringe areas, mountainous regions and urbanisation, and nature conservation.

Albert Bock  
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 7 September 1983)

## THE CINEMA

### New forms between the rigid clichés

Alexander Kluge's latest film *Die Macht der Gefühle* (The Power of the Feelings) was premiered during the International Film Festival in Venice. It is a closer look at how to come to a happy end without deceiving yourself.

There is no exclusively socialist way to keep the sea clean. Up until now, there has been no cleaning oil tankers on the coast. They now have to let out the water into special tanks in the sea.

The transport of particularly dangerous goods has to be officially controlled.

Pessimists regard the current more of a "moral watchdog" than anything else, pointing out that the analysis economic interests have priority than environmental efforts.

Emmanuel  
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 September 1983)

### Acid rain eats concrete

Steel and concrete are sensitive to pollution, say the Rhineland landscape authorities which regularly inspect the road bridges.

They say the concrete is being attacked by acid rain.

No-one thought about the problems when the bridges were built.

Today, many concrete structures are crumbling, cables becoming damaged to road surfaces is increasing.

Subsidence and salt water causes of damage.

The landscape association DM55m a year to have damaged. Bridge maintenance costs than doubled over the past ten years.

(Rheinische Post, 5 September 1983)

the spirit of the 19th century was to reveal the truth, which exerts the deadly earnest of many opera productions.

*Die Macht der Gefühle* takes up the theme of Kluge's first film *Abschied* (Goodbye to Yesterday).

Produced in 1965, Kluge is stock-taking seeking evidence, providing a vi-

sions when the bridges were built.

Today, many concrete structures are crumbling, cables becoming damaged to road surfaces is increasing.

Subsidence and salt water causes of damage.

The landscape association DM55m a year to have damaged. Bridge maintenance costs than doubled over the past ten years.

(Rheinische Post, 5 September 1983)

one main theme runs through the film: the destructive power of

"The individual feeling is not — all feelings together pursue a serious course as if they were blind."

Kluge believes that some time during the 12th century in Germany feelings were banished by means of witch and terror. Yet the film shows that feelings have somehow taken their re-

turn. The sequence of the film reveals that has happened to mankind; reason forged an alliance with society, everything has its price.

And so, despite the optimism expressed repeatedly in the film that everything can be prevented, one finds in all this is nothing compared to what is happening today."

The exhibition in the Senckenberg museum is open until the end of September.

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Albert Bock  
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 7 September 1983)

the film's subject-matter is really for Kluge: there are many layers of entanglements which are so characteristic of his films. A political situation, a private relationship, reflecting, and deciphering one an-

other. The romantic melancholy, the cult of

hopelessness which has emerged in his films and has so often been criticised, is also there. Yet the film is lacking in suspense and its own aesthetic appeal.

A brief rundown of the film's content: "Germany, 1941, Brömbach, a small town near the Swiss border. A German woman falls in love with a Polish prisoner."

According to the Nazi laws, to love a German woman means certain death for the Pole Stanislaw.

Although both lovers try to hide their feelings to begin with, they are so powerful that they break out into the open. Stanislaw's death is pre-programmed. Stanislaw is hanged whilst Pauline is sent to prison.

"Everyone in the small town hates the two lovers. Although they do so for different reasons, the symptoms are the same, all rooted in fascism."

The story is told in the form of a flashback. In a kind of interview witnesses are asked about the past.

Yet they dislike being questioned, they want to forget the past. Each one of them is guilty, yet none of them feel guilt.

Wajda had to lower his sights when producing this film and although the film is 120 minutes long as it is the lines spoken haven't really got time to sink in.

Wajda has set a deceptive harmony against the tragedy of the film — radiant colours, blooming flowers, glorious sunshine; the décor of peacefulness as the background for a crime.

The scenery has changed, has been renovated and modernised, yet the actors have not changed. To them an order is still an order, laws are still laws.

Hanna Schygulla is rather a questionable choice to play the part of Pauline. Her sensuality seems too well-mannered.

It is only after she is sent to prison that she develops a convincing strength of character, a determination.

She draws her strength from the totality of her love, the power of her feelings.

She regrets nothing and is the only person in the whole town who accepts responsibility for what she has done.

Annette Ascher  
(Mannheimer Morgen, 10 September 1983)

the power of feelings examined by Kluge's film is also dealt with in the German-French co-production *Elno* (The Power of Feelings).

Produced by the Polish director Andrzej Wajda, and based on the novel by the same name by Rolf Hochhuth, the film is also competing in the International Film Festival in Venice.

Hanna Schygulla, Piotr Lysak, Armin Müller-Stahl and Marie Christine Barman play the main parts.

The film's subject-matter is really for Kluge: there are many layers of entanglements which are so characteristic of his films. A political situation, a private relationship, reflecting, and deciphering one an-

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Albert Bock  
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 7 September 1983)

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Hanna Schygulla and Piotr Lysak... playing with fire in 'Eine Liebe in Deutschland'. (Photo: Scottia)

### Festival shows that children's films can be top quality

The Children's Film Festival taking place in Frankfurt presents a welcome alternative to the poor selection of children's films usually shown by the "established" cinemas.

The festival shows just how varied children's films can be: 13 new productions from 12 countries were chosen (Holland, Romania, China, Finland, Upper Volta, Australia, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, the Philippines, Italy, USSR and the Federal Republic of Germany).

Many focus on the clash between different cultures, on the loss of tradition, on fears and on dreams.

The Philippines film, *Turumba*, makes a stand against western influences on life in the Philippines. Kadu lives with his family in Pakil near Manila.

His family earns a living by making papier-maché figures, which they sell on the edge of the road during the annual processions.

This central theme is accompanied by shots showing the most important areas of culture and everyday life in the country.

Expressions such as competitive pressure, lack of time or career-mindedness are unknown. Happiness and content-

ment exist because of an intact social network embedded in old traditions.

This harmony is destroyed when a German businesswoman discovers the quality of the papier-maché figures and places more and more export orders.

Kadu finds it difficult to adjust to the new conditions. The family receives compensation in the form of a television set, a new car and finally a flight to West Germany.

The Australian entry, *Manganinnie*, is also critical of the results of so-called civilisation.

Manganinnie, the red-fire woman, sees how her tribe is hunted down and murdered by white settlers.

Protected by only a burning torch she fights her way through the wilderness. Her journey is full of despair, longing, loneliness. Anger and resignation set in.

Director John Honey carefully and vividly presents the distress and helplessness of this human being in his film.

The clarity of his criticism is both moving and captivating.

*Manganinnie* not only provides information but also food for thought about our own situation. It is one of the best films.

The Dutch production *Kampen om beide* (German title: Fighting for both of them) deals with a problem of today, an everyday story.

Freddy's parents want to get a divorce. Freddy doesn't understand the situation and leaves home.

His only hope is Saskia, his girlfriend, whose parents have also separated. She belongs to a club of children with divorced parents.

In this group Freddy finds a hide-out and, what is more important, understanding.

The film does not omit harsh realities which indicates the genuine commitment of its director.

Despite the serious nature of the film there are no frightening sequences. Amusing scenes with their bright colours manage to break the serious mood of conflicts and quarrels. The film's message is hope.

Even if the parents decide on a divorce it's not the end of the world. This point is conveyed well by the film.

Fairy tales have a special part to play

Continued on page 12



Kristauch-Betty (played by Suzanne von Borosdy) at the border in 'Die Macht der Gefühle'. (Photo: Futura Film)



## Divorce rate climbs as ideas about permanence of marriage change

The divorce rate is skyrocketing in West Germany. More than one in four marriages since 1956 have ended in divorce.

In 1982, a record year, 118,483 couples were divorced. Is marriage as an institution dying out?

Hard though it is to be married, the marriage game remains popular: The annual number of marriages has remained constant at between 340,000 and 360,000 over the past ten years.

But taking into account the number of marriages that end in the traditional way through death (315,000 a year) the number of existing marriages is clearly going down.

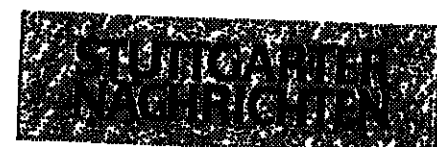
Psychologists and sociologists are agreed that our social values are undergoing fundamental change.

"The value of marriage is waning," says Hans Asmus of Tübingen University's Sociology Department.

And psychologist Rolf Kirchner of the Family Affairs Counselling Centre of the German Family Law Forum in Stuttgart suggests that "many people who get married today no longer do so with the idea of staying married for life."

Legal aspects play a secondary role here. The change of divorce laws that came into effect on 1st January 1977, doing away with the "guilty party" principle, has had no effect on the overall number of divorces, according to the Bonn Justice Ministry.

After a brief decline in the number of divorces due to the need to adjust to the new law, the figures rose again, continuing the trend that had existed until 1976. The number of divorces has risen two-and-a-half-fold since the mid-1950s.



They blame this on the invasion of family life by television and other electronic media.

Tübingen University professor Reinhard Lempp (who is the medical director of the University's Youth and Child Psychiatry Clinic and frequently has to deal with broken marriages) blames the rise in the number of divorces on two main factors: the dwindling number of children who frequently keep a marriage together and the decline of religious ties.

The Stuttgart Family Affairs Counselling Centre points to the growing strain imposed on family life.

"With the intimacy of its relations, marriage is expected to assume additional functions in an increasingly depersonalised society. The family has become the focal point and the demands it has to meet have grown," says lawyer Volker Raban, chairman of the German Family Law Forum.

The declining ability to communicate from person to person makes matters even worse. "People no longer know how to talk to each other," say Raban and Kirchner.

They blame this on the invasion of family life by television and other electronic media.

Accompanying this is a growing inability to cope with crises. "Conflicts that arise hit people like a natural disaster."

The economic slump makes for even more marital conflicts, says Hans Asmus. He points to his observation that intact families tend to close ranks in a crisis while those that already have cracks fall apart.

The new divorce law with its pension splitting has provided divorced women with more material security, which explains why it is predominantly women who seek a divorce, says Raban: Close to 60 per cent of divorce suits are filed by women.

But the roots sure to go far beyond financial considerations.

"Emancipation has encouraged more and more women to demand things for themselves. Never before have so many women had the skills needed to hold a job and they no longer want to be just housewives," says Reinhard Lempp, seconded by Hans Asmus.

While women — indirectly supported by the feminist movement — have thus become more conscious of the avenues open to them, there is no such boost to the man's ego. In fact, some men become insecure, says Asmus.

One of the most frequent sources of problems in new marriages lies in the

fact that men are unable to cut the umbilical cord that ties them to their parents, says Reinhard Lempp. In his experience, it is the man who is unable to get away from his mother's apron strings, and who raises the wife's hackles.

"The main victims of a man's emotional immaturity are the children. The result of their never experience how a marriage going. Bad marriage, 'hereditary' as good as Lempp.

Does all this mean that the will continue to rise?

Lempp is reluctant to cast. He points to the fact that forms of living together are saying that marriages without go certificate are spreading.

### Living together

The fact is that the number of unregistered marriages has risen. According to estimates by the Institute for Demographic Research in Wiesbaden, about one million West Germans lived in such unions in 1980 — three times the figure of 1960.

Is this type of marriage the place of the old-fashioned marriage? The Stuttgart Counselling Centre believes in a renaissance of the idea for life.

Pointing to the Greens, who suggest that the nation is moving from materialistic values and away from biological food outlets. This was his forecast is on the optimistic side. "The challenges confronting the nation, as a whole, must strengthen the family," says the Greens.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 September 1983)

## ■ HEALTH

## Biologically grown foods just a sham — researcher



Polychlorinated biphenyl was found in scattered cases; but the concentration was 0.05 mg per kilo or less, putting it well below the danger threshold.

The amount of residue was equal in the two types of food. The analysis of mercury concentrations was abolished after a year because, if they existed at all, they were so small as to be untraceable.

No difference in the nitrate content of the two types of potatoes, lettuce and carrots was found. Carrots had higher concentrations than the other vegetables, but that was simply due to the special properties of the carrot.

The nitrate content in bread and apples was so low that no further analysis was made.

The comparison of vitamins, taste and smell showed almost no differences between the two.

The conclusion was that the nutritive value of food could not be improved by buying biological products.

But the consumer who buys all or much of his food from the same producer runs the risk of not getting enough nutrition, particularly consumers who buy their food from a single bio-farmer.

The survey has proved that modern agriculture and the chemical industry — if one disregards a few exceptions — have been unjustly criticised.

Thus nullifies the Green party (environmental class struggle slogan: "Because you're poor and cannot afford expensive bio-products you must die earlier.")

The only thing in which bio-products differ from the rest is their price, which is frequently double.

The LUFA survey has hit the Greens like a hammer.

The magazine *Natur* is now trying to regain lost ground by maintaining that the study is worthless because the specimens used by the researchers were not taken directly from bio-farms and gardens but from bio-shops that mislabelled their goods.

LUFA manager Helmut Targen has rejected this accusation. He says it is a "malicious distortion of facts."

The Greens levelled the charges only because the scientific results of the study don't fit their ideology, he said. The analysis methods were absolutely above board and would stand any check.

The results must be taken as representative and unimpeachable — especially in view of the fact that only 0.1 per cent of German arable land is farmed biologically.

Helmut Targen stressed that his organisation had no intention of maligning the so-called bio-scene and that its only aim was to find out whether food produced with modern methods actually contained more toxic substances than the biological kind. It does not. This has now been clearly established.

Rainer Sachdev (Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 9 September 1983)

Dieter Schwab (Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 September 1983)

## Biologically grown foods not just a sham — researcher

Professor Hartmut Vogtmann of Kassel University has the distinction of being West Germany's only university professor who deals entirely with biological farming methods.

This naturally makes him more open-minded than his colleagues towards the problems and products of bio-farmers. But the ways in which experts on conventional farming and those on bio-farming tackle some of the problems are similar.

Take the nitrate content in vegetables and drinking water which is due to the use of nitrate-based fertilisers that are vital to plant life.

The trouble with these fertilisers that they provide plants with more nutrients than they can absorb. As a result, the plant fills up on nitrates, leaving the excess to find its way to the water table.

The nitrate is transformed into nitrite in the saliva, and the nitrite in its turn can easily turn into nitrosamines which are suspected of causing cancer and having an adverse genetic effect.

A special commission of the German Research Association puts the critical level of the daily nitrate intake at 40 mg. Exceeding this level leads to conspicuous nitrate concentrations in the saliva.

The nitrate level in Switzerland — whose research institutions Professor Vogtmann closely cooperates with — is more than twice this figure, with the daily intake of 91.1 mg.

Most of the intake — 70 per cent — is accounted for by vegetables, while the rest comes from drinking water.

The figures, which are likely to be the same in Germany, have prompted Professor Vogtmann to urge that the use of nitrates in agriculture be reduced in favour of animal manure. This would supply the plants with sufficient nutrients without undesirable side effects.

The fertiliser industry has adopted a similar concept and is now supplying special products that are absorbed equally slowly.

Professor Vogtmann sees this as an indirect proof that biological farmers are not too far off the mark.

But the difficulties lie in the details. Not every plant fertilised with animal manure provides the hoped for increased yield.

This calls for careful planning by the farmer, though little is known about the mechanics that play a role.

Professor Vogtmann is therefore carrying out a series of tests to establish how individual plants react to the different types of fertiliser.

This difference in the plant's reactions also makes it difficult to come up with commercially feasible biological farming methods.

The differences can also serve to explain some of the conflicting results of various research projects.

Professor Vogtmann also stresses the necessity of taking dry substances as the basis of comparison between biological and conventional farm produce.

Since conventionally grown fruit contains more water than the biological variety, the latter has an edge.

Taking into account that the biological produce has a longer storage life, there is much to be said in favour of this type of farming, Professor Vogtmann holds.

Dieter Schwab (Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 September 1983)

## Film festival

Continued from page 11

In this year's festival. Dopey kings, wicked thieves, dangerous dragons, noble ladies and plenty of intrigue are shown in the Czechoslovakian and Soviet productions. The ideal world cliché with the happy end of classic fairy tale films.

Konrad aus der Konservendose (Konrad from the canned food tin) is a fairy tale with a difference.

The film turns the world topsy-turvy, dreams are suddenly reality and children do everything they are normally not allowed to do: be cheeky, paint walls.

How does all this happen? Well, Konrad is a well-educated lad but unfortunately he is handed in at the wrong address.

As he wants to stay with Frau Bartolotti and has to learn how to become a proper, i.e. a cheeky child.

This West German production from Claudia Schröder casts doubt in an unconventional way on the usual educational categories and encourages children to have more fun in life.

If anybody claims that there are not enough children's films worth watching this year's festival proves him wrong.

The growing interest for this film genre should be a signal for film producers to devote more attention to children's films in future.

Andrea Scherell

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 7 September 1983)

## One-parent families: prejudices on top of the other problems



where the traditional roles of men and women are concerned.

For instance when asked whether a single father with small children should stay home and mind the children, living on social welfare if necessary, or whether he should "be a proper man and earn a living," the traditional view that a man should work prevailed among the respondents.

This view was most conspicuous among those over 55 and those from the lower social strata.

Dr Napp-Peters concludes that single fathers who devote themselves entirely to home and children can expect little understanding and support from these people.

Most of these respondents said that their rigid attitude stemmed from the fact that "a man's dignity" rests on his earning a living and providing for his family.

Ninety per cent of all respondents went so far as to say that fathers of children of school-going age should hold a "decent job."

But virtually none of those who held this view had given any thought to the fact that this would mean that the children would be without supervision while not at school. Nor did they give

any thought to who would look after them during school holidays when they were sick.

And it is these "in between" that cause single parents the most headaches, says Dr Napp-Peters.

The role of the single mother in an entirely different light. More than three-quarters of the respondents held that she should stay home and mind her small children — not because they need their mother but because it is better for her to be at home and family.

But the same number of respondents considered it better if a mother of children of school-going age held a regular job.

However, the reason given for this was not that this was better for the reputation and well-being of the mother but that the children now no longer needed her that much.

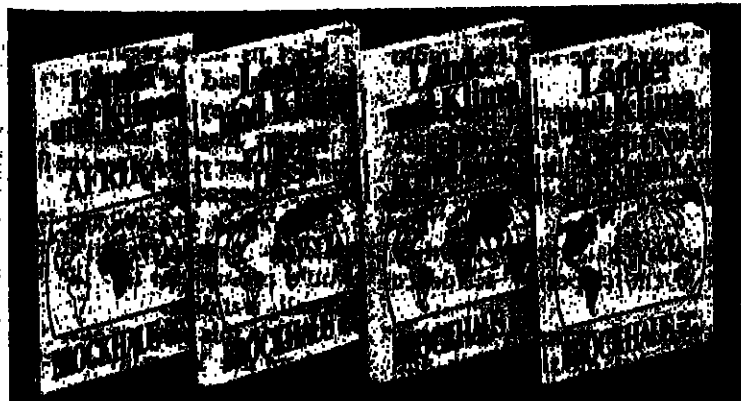
By and large, Dr Napp-Peters suggests, the public is rather sceptical about the functions of single child parents.

Eighty five per cent doubt that a single parent can do justice to a child's needs and 78 per cent have doubts regarding the single parent's ability to provide a "decent job."

The father, they say, cannot provide the necessary warmth and security that is a must in child rearing.

Rolf Degen/deutscher Forschungsdienst (General-Anzeiger, 10 September 1983)

## Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

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## Gypsy exhibition opens in spite of a few problems

An exhibition dealing with gypsies has opened at the ethnological museum in Hamburg despite a row which resulted in the gypsies themselves withdrawing support.

It was originally intended that the gypsies in Hamburg would contribute their own exhibits documenting their persecution from 1933 until today.

The difficulty arose when the Hamburg council refused them permission to investigate the city's state archives. The gypsies wanted to demonstrate that



Romany woman near Madrid in 1976.

In all German states separate records were kept of them until the late 1960s.

But Hamburg said that the files contained personal data which may not be made public for 60 years. An exception would not be made.

The gypsies, represented by the Romany and Sinti Union, then withdrew support from the museum.

Mounting the exhibition was a difficult enough task even without these problems. The museum asked the council for DM300,000 as a subsidy but was given only DM50,000. The museum itself came up with another DM30,000.

Despite all this, the exhibition is a remarkable one. It depicts the history of the gypsies who originally came to central Europe from north west India via Persia, Armenia, Greece and Yugoslavia. Various words adopted by the gypsy language help trace this migration. The German word for gypsy is *Zigeuner* and



comes from the Byzantine *Atsani* sect with whom the gypsies were probably confused because of the similarity of their ritual purity laws.

The English word originates from "Egyptian" because many of these strangers said that they came from Egypt Minor, meaning the Peloponnese, in Greece.

Belying an old German folksong, the life of the gypsies has rarely been merry. Throughout their history, they have been persecuted through legislation and have suffered deprivation.

No gypsy would be ever turned away from the city of Darmstadt, promised the mayor in a speech in 1979 to mark a gypsy festival.

Three large families of Romanies took the words at their face value and moved into the city.

Four years later, their house has been bulldozed to the ground. So much for the words.

When the bulldozers moved in, the gypsies were away on holiday. A spokesman for the city said: "We thought they had moved out of the area."

No one bothered to salvage the belongings. The were all ploughed under in the rubble.

Romani Rose, the chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Romany, said: "This is the worst the Germans have done to the gypsies since 1945!"

Back from holiday, the shocked victims went to City Hall. They were told that the demolition was because of the danger of epidemics and because the house was on the verge of collapse.

Why were their possessions not taken out of the house? A mere shrug was the answer.

The gypsies bought themselves some tents and camped in a remote spot right next to an illegal rubbish dump. One observer counted 120 ratholes in the vicinity.

The camp was visited by a delegation of internationally known human rights

They found mercy only if they were prepared to give up their own laws and way of life and conform.

But they were rarely prepared to do despite the fact that their traditional sources of income, like dealing in horses, basket making and coppersmithing, only just enabled them to eke out a living.

The exhibition shows various gypsy crafts and the tools.

It also shows the social structures of the individual tribes, contradicting old prejudices about gypsies.

Flamenco dancing and Hungarian violin music are not of gypsy origin but were adopted by talented gypsy performers, the exhibition shows.

It also has a unique collection of fortune telling dolls which the gypsies say have magic powers.

These simple rag dolls that look as if they were made by children make it obvious that gypsy culture cannot be measured by the yardsticks of our own civilisation.

Poor, itinerant and often threatened,

## Romanies' home sweet home demolished

champions investigating charges of racism against the Darmstadt council.

Among them was Professor Eugen Kogon, the Jewish author of the book *The SS State*. He said: "This is without doubt a hangup from the racist past of the Hitler era."

But rather than pin the blame on anybody, he suggested that the proper course of action would be to talk with the present mayor, Günther Metzger (SPD).

Metzger, however, was hurt by the accusation of racism and refused to receive the complainants.

"The demolition of the house was legally above board," he said in a radio interview.

Yet everything had started promisingly. When they arrived, four years ago, the three Romany families were taken from their dilapidated caravans and housed.

But since they had no papers they were only given temporary residence permits.

The two major churches in Germany made sure that they did not starve, and the City even provided a special class for the children.

The men were given jobs by the parks

department, and one family listed in making copperware.

But the city were wrong. It was the integration of the Romanies was well under way and nothing could go wrong.

The former caravan dwellers lived with their merry-making.

They had different ideas of friendliness which led to clashes with the neighbours.

Those who had jobs with the department could not come to work with regular work.

The city decided to get rid of them in autumn of 1982. The men were from the social welfare register grounds that they "shirked work."

The gypsies felt betrayed and resented the new obstacles when trying to find housing.

"Let us have regular status permits instead of temporary permits," they demanded.

Eugen Kogon backed them, that "proper papers are the first step towards integration."

Darmstadt has refused to issue stateless passports, arguing that would presuppose that the Romanies were actually stateless.

"But in this case we suspect that they are Yugoslav citizens hiding their passports."

H. F. Kogon (Die Welt, 11 September 1983)

There is probably a little truth behind all the beliefs about various temperaments. The English are probably a little cooler, and south Europeans are more hot blooded than other Europeans.

Supporting evidence comes from a survey report by a German psychologist, Professor Klaus R. Scherer, of the University, who is carrying out a study together with scientists from Ireland, Britain, France, Italy, and the Netherlands about the causes of feeling and how they are expressed.

The pot-pourri of emotions has been reduced to a comparison between the tones of joy, sadness, fear and anger.

Professor Scherer has presented the results collected so far in the magazine, *Science Information*.

He says that people in all of the national groups experienced happiness when they were together with friends when they experienced some sort of success in life.

The British particularly got satisfaction from their basic needs of life, eating, drinking and sex. The French felt particularly comfortable in the company of their relatives.

Almost everybody was sad when someone close, or pet, died; over a cri-

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## MODERN LIVING

## Stressed: who is, who's not and who thinks who is

Allensbach research organisation has discovered a strange anomaly. In their relentless quest to keep abreast of the times, the pollsters have mapped the state of stress in the Federal Republic.

The results are an eye opener: 61 per cent of those polled believed that most of their fellow Germans laboured under the effects of stress, but only 31 per cent admitted that they themselves were affected by stress.

The first question asked: "Do you feel the impression that most people in the Federal Republic suffer from stress?" Twenty per cent of the 2,000 polled said they didn't know. 59 per cent said most people were affected by stress while 61 per cent

do not doubt: most people were.

Only 47 per cent said yes. Yet 79 per cent said that they themselves were, by and large, satisfied with their lives.

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most were stressed and 18 per cent they weren't.

The Danes and especially the Dutch presented another picture. Only 41 per cent in each case said that most people were stressed. But 30 per cent of the Danes and 48 per cent of the Dutch said that most people weren't.

Allensbach comes to the conclusion that the idea of stress is everywhere strongly overestimated. It compares what people actually think about stress and what they think people think about it.

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Heinrich Liermann... the mud-flat express.

(Photo: Karsten Kollege)

## Loneliness of the long-distance, bare-footed postman

The post office has strict regulations about what clothing postmen must wear. But at least one ignores them and delivers the mail barefoot.

Heinrich Liermann, 40, lives on the north Frisian island of Pellworm. He is the last of the postmen who trudge across to the small islands of the North Sea coast.

Three times a week in summer and twice in winter he plods his way across the sea of mud behind the receding tide from Pellworm, seven kilometres, to the little island of Süderoog.

There is only one family on the island, Herr and Frau Thomsen. Liermann takes any return mail and then makes the journey back to Pellworm before the tide turns and reclaims the mud flats.

When all goes according to plan, his mission last five hours. An hour later, Süderoog is again cut off by the sea.

Liermann sets out by walking 800 metres from his home to the end of the firm land. At the beginning of the mud flats, he takes off his shoes, puts them in his pack next to the mail, rolls up his trousers and sets off using a walking stick for support. Always a stickler for correctness, he puts on his shoes at the other end before handing over the mail.

When the weather is good, he can see Süderoog the entire length of his journey. When the fog closes in, he uses a compass. If the fog is very heavy, as it sometimes is in the autumn, Liermann uses a foghorn. On his return journey, his wife stands at his departure point on Pellworm with another fog horn and guides him back. When it gets too cold, he wears hip-high boots instead of going barefoot.

Gerhard and Erika Thomsen are the only people on Süderoog. In 1971, the State of Schleswig-Holstein bought the 65 hectares (160 acres) island for 400,000 marks and the Thomsens took over as tenant farmers. They run cows and chickens. In summer they sometimes provide lodgings for holidaymakers. But this is an island for birds, a bird sanctuary, for the terns, and gulls.

Liermann is not a full-time postman. He gets paid 16 marks an hour for his work. That is not enough to live on. So he runs a small hotel and restaurant by the beach. The big attraction is the wreck of the Ormen Friske, a 30-metre viking-style ship built by Swedish students in 1950. It put to sea manned by 15 students but ran into a hurricane and was wrecked.

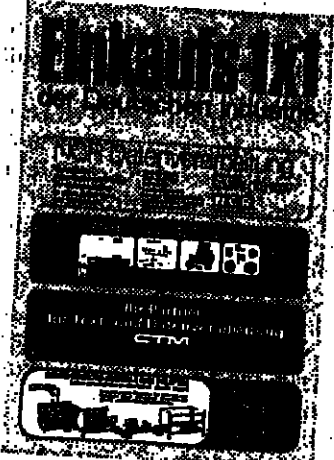
Heinrich Liermann's father, Heinrich senior, discovered the wreck near Pellworm. Now, with its dragon-shaped prow, it sits high out of the ground like some antediluvian exclamation mark.

Liermann's grandfather trod the same postal route between Pellworm and Süderoog for 45 years. He died in 1974 at the age of 92 after clocking up 100,000 muddy kilometres.

His successor was a woman, Edith Mextorf. Ten years ago, Liermann junior took over after learning to be a fisherman. He has reached 10,000 kilometres on the mud flats, and has not had a day off sick since he began.

Joseph Schmidt (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 September 1983)

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